NATHAN CHATMOND SPRINGER AND MATILDA ROBEY SPRINGER

Nathan Chatmond Springer, son of John Springer and Eliza Manchester Springer, was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, June 26, 1843. His parents had sixteen children, eight sons and eight daughters, fourteen of whom grew to full maturity and raised families. Nathan was the fifteenth child of his parents.

While he was still a young lad he went to sea as a cabin boy on board the whaling ship "Charles W. Stewart," of which his brother, Cornelius Springer, was captain. He followed the sea for a number of years, and became quartermaster of "The Dupont." His brother Cornelius was commander of this ship.

In the early spring of 1863, he, with a companion, Pete Clays, went to Buffalo, New York. While there they met a company of immigrants who were preparing to go west to California. The two young men were fired with enthusiasm for such an adventure, and volunteered to join the company as teamsters. Neither of them knew anything about horses, but their offer was accepted and they came west as teamsters of a freight train bound for the Pacific Coast. They reached Salt Lake in the late summer of 1863. They liked Utah and decided to stay in Salt Lake City rather than go on. They secured employment at a lumber camp in Big Cottonwood.

In 1865 Nathan met and married Hannah Anderson. She died in Mill Creek in September 1866 when her first baby, a little girl, was ten days old. Little Hannah lived and was raised by Mr. and Mrs. George Norville of North Ogden. They had no children of their own, and brought Hannah up with loving care. She married Albert Toone and spent her life in North Ogden. They had nine children: Albert, Jr., Edward, George, Annie, Glen, Rose, Ellen, Blanche and Mabel.

On November 2, 1867, Nathan married Matilda Robey, the daughter of Jeremiah Robey and Ruth Tucker Robey. She was born December 13, 1849 at Honey Creek, Iowa. They were married by George Q. Cannon in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. They had eight children: Emily Matilda, married Henry T. Coleman; Lalla Ruth, married Charles Alexander; Ellen Melissa, married Carson Smith; Nathan Chatmond, Jr., married Annie Lewis Carroll; Franklyn Theophilus, died in youth; Jeremiah Robey, married Lydia Bigler; Ida May and Lethe Belle, died in youth.

Mr. and Mrs. Springer made their home in Midway. During the summer of 1868 Mr. Springer worked at the saw mill in Snake Creek, which was owned by Henry Coleman, Sr. He served as a guard in the Black Hawk War. He later turned his interest to mining. He was a contractor, and was superintendent of various mines in the Park City and Alta Districts. He was interested also in the Snake Creek and Deep Creek mining projects.

In the fall of 1886, he went to Mexico where he had been offered a position as superintendent of a group of mines. He took his young son Jerry with him. While he was in Mexico he was invited to visit his brother Franklyn Springer in Bluefield, Nicaragua, Central America. His brother wanted Nathan to become interested in a banana plantation which he owned. Nathan made two trips to Bluefield. While there on the second visit, he was drowned when the boat in which he and two companions were fishing was overturned by a sudden squall. His death occurred November 16, 1888. His young son Jerry was accompanied home by his cousin Henry Springer, son of Franklyn Springer.

Matilda Robey was nine years old when her parents moved from Provo to Provo Valley, settling in the Lower Settlement. They were among the first pioneers to come to what is now Midway in 1859. She was the youngest child of her parents. She was dainty and pretty and adored by her family.

She took many enjoyable trips to Salt Lake City and Mill Creek with her parents who often had friends to visit and business to attend there.

It was during one of these visits that she met a strapping young sailor, Nathan Springer, who had left his native New England for California and the gold rush. Stopping over in Salt Lake to rest and get supplies, Nathan became interested in Utah and the Mormons. He liked the country and stayed. After meeting Matilda he knew for sure he would stay.

Nathan and Matilda wanted to settle close to her people. So they built a home in Midway. Matilda knew how to make a log cabin a cozy, comfortable and happy home.

Nathan went into the mining business. When he and Matilda had been married for 17 years and had eight children, Nathan went to Mexico and while visiting his brother, Franklyn in Nicaragua, drowned.

It was indeed a sad day for Matilda and her family when they received the letter edged in black telling of the husband and father's death. Nathan had been a good provider and although Matilda was left with eight children to care for and raise with careful planning she and her children never were in want. Matilda was only thirty-five years of age when she was left a widow.

During a terrible epidemic of black diphtheria Matilda's family was stricken. Ida May, Lethe Belle, her two youngest girls and Franklin, a son, died.

One by one the rest of her family married and made homes of their own. A year after her oldest child, Emily, was married Matilda's mother (Ruth Tucker) died. This was a great sorrow and loss to Matilda for her mother had been "stay and strength" to her as she carried on her duties as a widow. Her father, Jeremiah Robey, now came to make his home with her.

They were happy in each other's company. Matilda cared for her father faithfully and lovingly until his death at the age of ninety-five years.

Matilda was always an independent person. Although her children would have loved to have had her live with them in their homes she was happy and content to live by herself in her lovely old home of eight rooms.

Her family was a musical one, every one could sing and they played the lovely old organ with its chimes. She had a wonderful library of books for she was a great reader. Her grandchildren never tired of her telling them the stories of the Indians and the early days and trials of the Saints, of their love and devotion to their Church.

She always bore her testimony of the truthfulness of the Gospel. She had the record of being a Relief Society teacher longer than any one living in Midway. She had a wonderful attendance record too. Until her health failed one could always see her in Church on Sunday.

She never used glasses and her hearing was very good for her age. On her ninety-first birthday her granddaughter, Merle Coleman Madsen and husband, Elmer Madsen, took her down to the Provo Airport and gave her her first airplane ride. She thrilled over it as her travels were then from the ox team to the airplane.

At the age of 92 she suffered a slight stroke, but recovered enough to wait on herself, although it was necessary for her to live with her daughter, Emily. She died two and a half years later, April 30, 1944, and was buried in the Midway Cemetery.

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JEREMIAH ROBEY SPRINGER AND LYDIA ROSETTA BIGLER SPRINGER

Jeremiah (Jerry) Robey Springer was born November 17, 1878, in Midway, a son of Nathan Chatmond and Matilda Robey Springer. He married Lydia Rosetta Bigler on November 9, 1904, at Heber. The marriage was later solemnized in the Temple.

Lydia Rosetta Bigler was born June 12, 1881, at Tuba, Arizona, the daughter of Jacob Arnold Bigler and Pauline Ott Bigler.

Jerry Springer spent his youth in Midway, except for a sojourn while very young in Mexico with his father, who had gone there in the interest of mining. Mr. Springer, like his father, engaged in mining and mining contracting. He spent several years in Park City, Soldiers Summit, and Grass Valley, California, following his trade. He served as mayor and as sheriff in Soldiers Summit. He had a coal business for several years in Soldiers Summit. He was also a good blacksmith. He has made several trips to Mexico on mining business.

He, with Reese Claybourn and Nymphus Watkins from Midway, was among the first cadets at the Utah State Agricultural College in Logan. He was the counselor in the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association in the Midway First Ward. He is a member of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers. He is a generous, honest, dependable man, respected and loved by the people of each community in which he has lived.

The Bigler family moved from Shumway, Arizona, to Mt. Pleasant, Utah, when Lydia was nine years old. It took six weeks to make the trip with teams and wagon. They crossed the Colorado River at Lee's Ferry and traveled over Lees Backbone which was a treacherous journey. Mrs. Springer remembers the water holes at Moen Copping, Arizona, where the Mormons had a woolen mill at one time. While crossing a river during the trip, the team was caught in quicksand and only help from men at Moen Copping prevented a tragedy.

Lydia was visiting in Midway when she met Jerry Springer. They fell in love and were later married. Mrs. Springer was president of the Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association of the Midway Second Ward. She has been a member of the singing mothers, and is a member of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. She has been an active Relief Society member for many years. She is a good mother, a loyal citizen, and a highly respected neighbor.

The children of Jerry and Lydia Springer:
Jay Reed, married Fannie Lyman;
Mrs. Joseph (Lydia Pauline) Erwin;
Beryl Ott, married Tura Holmes;
Lowell Franklin, married Louise Patrick;
Mrs. George (Amy) Whitley;
Mrs. Dean (Floris) Olsen.